



# Eligibility Determination for Adults and Children with Intellectual and Related Developmental Disabilities

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Division of Developmental Disabilities

Department of Health & Human Services



## Division goals

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- Maximize federal funding
  - Must apply for and accept federal Medicaid benefits
  - Benefits from other funding sources within department, State Department of Education, specifically including the Division of Rehabilitation Services and other agencies





# Eligibility for Developmental Disabilities (DD) Services

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- DD Services = voluntary
  - ≠ entitlement like educational services
- Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) determines eligibility following statutory definition of developmental disability (DDSA § 83-1201 to § 83-1226)



## Eligibility (continued)

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§ 83-1205. Developmental disability, defined

Handout:

What is an intellectual disability (ID)?

What is a developmental disability (DD)?

What is a developmental disability? (Nebraska State Law)



## Applying for services

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- Anyone can request application for eligibility determination
- Early determinations = best!
- Application
  - Via a referral  
<http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/dip/ded/DDEligibility.htm>
  - When making application for services through DHHS on AccessNebraska

# Initial eligibility – important information

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- Online AccessNebraska application
  - Online application – “ENTER in English” or “Ingresa en Espanol”
  - Select “Healthcare/Medicaid Application”
  - Respond to the following questions:
    - Does (applicant) have a physical disability or mental health condition that limits their ability to work, attend school or take care of their daily needs?
    - Does (applicant) need help with activities of daily living (like bathing, dressing and using the bathroom) or live in a medical facility or nursing home?





## Application packet

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Application packet sent to individual or guardian includes:

- Application and cover letter listing specific required documents with checklist for the applicant's use
- Attestation of US citizenship
- Notice of Rights and Obligations
- Consent to Release Information forms with example
- Definition of developmental disabilities

# DD Eligibility tracking

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- Timelines incorporated into the process
  - Up to 90 days for applicant to send information
  - 45 day – no info letter or 45 day – incomplete info letter
  - 90 day - no info letter – file goes into inactive status







# What DDD does to determine eligibility

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- When required information received, or after 90 days, Disability Services Specialist (DSS) assigned
- DSS has up to 30 days to make initial conclusion
- Up to 30 additional days when Division psychologist is consulted or Scales of Independent Behavior – Revised (SIB-R) is administered
  - SIB-R may be administered to assess adaptive skills and determine if substantial functional limitations exist



## DD eligibility decision: “Not eligible”

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- Notice of Decision (NOD) sent to individual or their guardian
- Due process rights and Request for Informal Dispute Resolution (IDR) and/or Appeal hearing attached to NOD
- 90 days to request an IDR and/or appeal hearing
  - Same DSS represents DDD at IDR and presents information to CB Administrator, Tricia Mason for Tricia’s affirmation or reversal of original decision
  - DD attorney represents DDD at appeal hearings
    - Hearing officer presents record to DDD Director, Jodi Fenner for affirmation or reversal of original decision

# DD eligibility decision: “Eligible for DD services”

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- Notice of Decision (NOD) sent to individual or guardian
- Option provided to work with a Service Coordinator (SC)
  - Ability to pay is considered





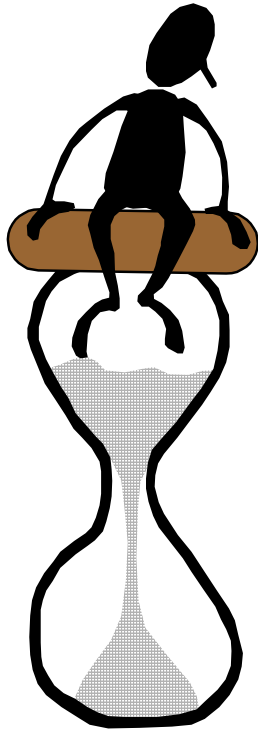
## What happens next?

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- Date of need for services is requested and service coordination is available
- If individual is over age 21 and has graduated from a high school on or after September 6, 1993, day services are automatically funded according to § 83-1216.
- Services not available until end of school year in which they turn 21.
  - Division cannot pay for (supplant) services that are available from the educational system.

# What is the registry (aka the waiting list)?

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- After determined eligible, select date of need = on the 'registry'
- Receive services when appropriation received from the legislature
- 'Priority' funding (rare)



## How is funding allocated?

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- Once funding is offered and accepted, Inventory for Client and Agency Planning (ICAP) is administered
- Needs revealed in the ICAP translate into Individual Budgeted Amount (IBA)
- IBA = annual amount for participants to choose services that meet their goals and preferences



## How do I choose services?

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- Once IBA is determined, Service Coordinator (SC) holds individual/family meeting to learn hopes, dreams and needs
  - Discuss options available and craft sample budget for the year
  - Select providers
- Team meeting to develop the IPP (Individual Program Plan) or Individual Service Plan (ISP)



## Focus on employment

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- Focus on community integration, activities and job experiences in the community
- Provides graduates with more options to live and work in their community
- Funds more job training activities
- Allows for in-home job searching activities
- Allows for home-based businesses





## Difference between specialized and non-specialized services

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- Specialized services are provided by certified provider agencies
- Non-specialized services are supports provided by independent providers, people hired by the individual and their family – job coaches, companions, housekeepers who are neighbors, college students, friends, etc.



## Helpful resource

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- Ready Set Go!

<http://readyssetgo.site.esu9.org/>